THE THIRD DAY.

14th February 1917.

The Assembly met again at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday, the 14th February 1917.

16. Desirability of throwing open portions of settled and proposed Reserves for cultivation.

Mr. Varghese Kathanar (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that, in olden times, the people depended mainly on *malavirippu* cultivation to earn their livelihood, that from 1065 the limits of forests were settled, that year after year the number of forest reserves was being increased, and that even unreserved lands were being closed to cultivation. In the Chengannur taluk, there were 717 sq. miles of forests out of a total area of 925 sq. miles. The *pakuthies* that lay adjoining the reserves were Ranni and Kumpazha. Chethakal, Karikulam, Kumaranperur North, Kumaranperur South, Valiyakavu and other proposed Reserves lay near registered holdings and habitations and their reservation had proved injurious to the interests of the poor ryots. The grant of those areas to the poor cultivators for *malavirippu* cultivation would be a real boon to them. The registry of the above areas would fetch a good income to the Government in the shape of *tharavila* and *thadivila*, besides a large annual recurring amount as assessment. The small forests adjoining registered holdings should be assigned in the names of the ryots, as otherwise those ryots would suffer much at the hands of the Forest subordinates.

The second suggestion of the Member was that the Eta forests, swampy areas and meadows, included in Reserves but devoid of tree growth, might be cut up into small blocks and granted to the poor cultivators for cultivation at least for one year, so as to save those men from eternal starvation. If that was not possible, the Government should start some industry in the taluk to enable the poor men to find their means of livelihood.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

17. Desirability of disafforesting the Tenkotam, Manianthra and Manakad Reserves which lie amidst registered holdings.

Mr. Ipe Uthuppu (Member, Thodupuzha taluk) said that, of the 1,15,181 acres of land in the taluk, there were only 8,716 acres of wet lands, that about 10,000 acres of land had been registered as *puduval* since the last Settlement and that the unregistered lands still available were rocky and unfit for cultivation. Foreign capitalists had started the cultivation of rubber, pepper, etc., in their lands and that had given the people of the taluk an impetus to start similar cultivation. But they found it difficult to get suitable lands. The Member prayed that the Tenkotam, Manianthra and Manakad Reserves, which lay adjoining registered holdings and which were not quite necessary for purposes of forest conservancy, might be registered in the names of applicants. That would obviate the damage done by wild beasts to cultivated holdings lying amidst the above Reserves, besides bringing in an appreciable revenue to the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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